

Message Text

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17/61

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CPR-01 /054 R

66620

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APPROVED BY:EA/PRCM:OVARMSSTRONG

EA/P:MSMITH (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS STATE 131864

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT OF EXPULSION OF PRC DIPLOMATS
FROM U.S.

1. STORY DATELINED TAIPEI WAS CARRIED ON UPI WIRE TODAY
(TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE HERE) CLAIMING THAT SIX PRCLO
DIPLOMATS WERE EXPELLED FROM THE U.S. IN APRIL FOR
"ESPIONAGE." REPORT LISTS NAMES AND DIPLOMATIC RANKS OF
FIVE ACTUAL PRCLO OFFICIALS; THE SIXTH NAME IS PROBABLY A
GARBLE OF ANOTHER PRCLO STAFFER.

2. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN QUASHED STORY AT NOON BRIEFING.
FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF BRIEFING EXCHANGE:

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Q. (KEYS, UPI). BOB, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE

REPORT FROM TAIPEI TODAY TODAY THAT HALF A DOZEN STAFF MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE MISSION HERE WERE EXPELLED FROM THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF THEIR ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES?

A. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO BASIS FOR THE REPORT. I HAVE CHECKED THAT BEFORE I CAME HERE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO THE PRC LIAISON OFFICE HERE IN WASHINGTON THAT HAVE RECENTLY LEFT WASHINGTON ON NORMAL HOME LEAVE OR TRANSFER. BUT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO BASIS TO THE REPORT THAT YOU HAVE REFERRED TO.

Q. THEY HAVE THE SAME NAMES, THOUGH, AS THE ONES REPORTED BY TAIPEI, DON'T THEY?

A. I THINK THAT SOME OF THE NAMES ARE THE SAME. THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO THAT ARE GARBLED. BUT SOME OF THOSE NAMES MENTIONED CERTAINLY ARE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE LIAISON OFFICE. BUT ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE LEFT JUST ON NORMAL HOME LEAVE OR TRANSFER.

Q. (NORMAN FU, CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY). MR. FUNSETH, I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ON THAT EXPULSION STORY.

YOU SAID THERE HAPPENED SOME RECENT TRANSFERS OR PEOPLE WITH HOME LEAVE?

A. YES.

Q. CAN YOU SAY IF SOME OF THE PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THE STORY ARE STILL HERE?

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT, FOR SURE, WHETHER ALL OF THEM HAVE RECENTLY LEFT.

Q. AND ALSO, THE STORY MENTIONED THAT THIS EXPULSION --ASSUMING, YOU KNOW IT WAS TRUE--BUT OF COURSE YOU HAVE DENIED IT--TOOK PLACE IN APRIL. CAN YOU FIND OUT WHAT TIME --
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A. I WILL CHECK WITH THE DATES SOME OF THESE PEOPLE LEFT--BUT NOW REALLY, THERE IS NO BASIS TO THIS STORY, AND I DO KNOW THAT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE LEFT UNDER NO MAL TRANSFERS AND HOME LEAVE, AS I SAID.

Q. THIS THING REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING ELSE WHICH I CAME ACROSS IN ONE OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THIS

DEPARTMENT.

FIVE U.S. DIPLOMATS IN THE PEKING LIAISON OFFICE
--FIVE NEW OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THERE, IN APRIL.

SO THIS LEADS ME TO SORT OF SPECULATE PERHAPS THAT
THING HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE EXPULSION--
MAYBE RETALIATION--THE U.S. PEOPLE IN PEKING HAVE
BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE.

CAN YOU LOOK INTO THIS?

THAT'S THE FIRST THAT I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THAT.
I DOUBT IT, BUT I WILL CHECK INTO IT--ABOUT RECENT
TRANSFERS IN OUR OFFICES.

Q. YES, WOULD YOU PLEASE FIND OUT IF THE TRANSFERS OF
YOUR PEOPLE IN PEKING WAS RELATED TO THIS?

A. I'M SURE IT WASN'T, BUT I WILL CHECK ON IT.

Q. BOB, JUST TO PIN IT DOWN COMPLETELY:

YOU CAN SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT THE DEPARTURE OF THESE
SIX PEOPLE WAS IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH ANY U.S.
REQUEST. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. THANK YOU.

3. POSTS SHOULD REFER TO SPOKESMAN'S DENIAL IN RESPONSE
TO ANY QUERIES.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PFOR, CH, US
To: PEKING TAIPEI
Type: TE
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